

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 30, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 30, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

OBJECTIONS:

The abstract stands objected to. Applicants have submitted a substitute Abstract herewith.

Claim 19 stands objected to. Applicants have cancelled claim 19, thereby obviating the objection.

The specification stands objected to. Applicants have cancelled claim 20, thereby obviating the rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claim 19, thereby obviating the rejection.

Claims 13-16, 18-19, 22-23 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,258,301 (*Feuerherm*) in view of Japanese Patent No. 2001-124516 (*Nozu*) and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (*APA*). *Feuerherm* teaches a method for controlling the wall thickness of parisons in blow molding applications. In contrast, the pending claims recite a method for characterizing an extrudate including calculating an equation for the combined swell and sag curve of the extrudate by detecting the lower edge as a function of time to generate separate sag and swell components. *Feuerherm* does not teach, show or suggest the features of the pending claims. In particular, *Feuerherm* does not teach generating separate sag and swell components.

The Office Action refers to column 9, lines 56-67 as support that the program curve of *Feuerherm* calculates both sag and swell of an extrudate. Applicants respectfully submit that such teaching does not teach, show or suggest the recited features of the pending claims. *Feuerherm* does not teach, show or suggest forming a combined

swell and sag curve of the extrudate by detecting the lower edge as a function of time and then generating separate sag and swell components.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action.

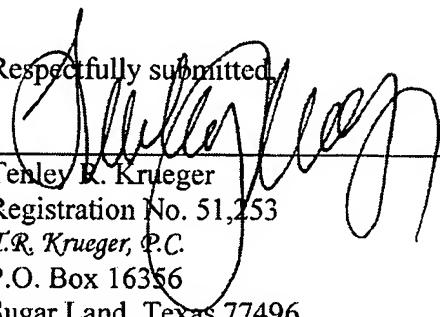
However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is misreading page 2, paragraph 2 of the instant specification. The Office Action states that "[a]utomating a manual activity such as calculating sag and swell from photographs using a computer as opposed to a person is *prima facie* obvious. Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the invention are not simply automating the process described in page 2, paragraph 2 of the specification. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feuerherm* in view of *Nozu* and *APA* and U.S. Pat. No. 3,826,926 (*White*). Claims 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feuerherm* in view of *Nozu* and *APA* and Japanese Pat. No. 59-100670 (*Saito*). Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feuerherm* in view of *Nozu* and *APA* and U.S. Pat. No. 4,341,827 (*Austen*). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feuerherm* in view of *Nozu* and *APA* and U.S. Pat. No. 5,325,178 (*Louis*). Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feuerherm* in view of *Nozu* and *APA* and Japanese Pat. No. 10-300680 (*Shimomura*). The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references do not supply the features missing from the primary reference cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having

addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Tenley R. Krueger
Registration No. 51,253
T.R. Krueger, P.C.
P.O. Box 16356
Sugar Land, Texas 77496
Telephone: 281-778-8934
Facsimile: 281-778-8937
Attorney for Applicant(s)